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Chitta
Initiative for Research by Pacta

LANDSCAPE OF FUNDING DISABILITY CONVENING



DELHI
JUNE 12, 2026

**“At its core,
philanthropy must step in
where markets fall short and
public systems can’t adequately
respond, even when the path
forward is arduous.**

**The disability sector exemplifies
this. Despite the scale of
opportunity and its profound
impact on lives of both
individuals and families,
disability remains one of the
most under-served areas
within India’s development
landscape.”**

Archana Chandra

(CEO, Jai Vakeel Foundation) &

Amit Chandra

(Chairperson - Bain Capital India Advisors
& Co-Founder ATE Chandra Foundation)

INTRODUCTION



Pacta's report, The Landscape of Funding for Disability in India, is a first-of-its-kind study that maps the funding landscape for the disability sector in India, examining how resources currently flow, where gaps persist, and the structural factors shaping access to funding.

Drawing on insights from NPOs, funders, and intermediaries, the study identifies opportunities for more equitable and sustained support. Building on the findings of the study, Pacta convened a series of curated gatherings across Bengaluru, Mumbai, and Delhi, each anchored in the study's insights and focused on advancing ideas for strengthening the sector.

The Delhi convening, held on 12 June 2026, brought together over 45 participants from civil society, government, philanthropy, research, and ecosystem leadership. The session began with an overview of the study, a data walk-through of key findings, perspectives from government, funders and NPOs, followed by an open-floor discussion on pathways for more sustained and equitable support.



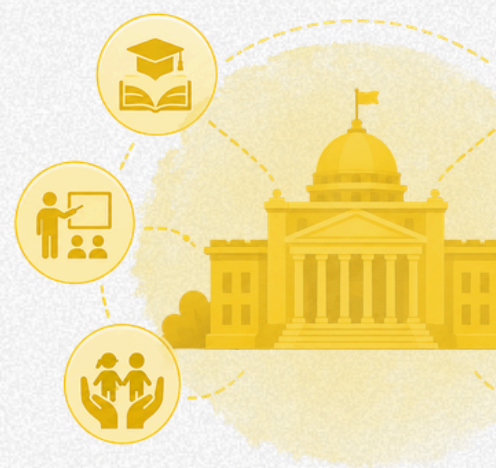


EMERGENT THEMES

- 01** GOVERNMENT
AND SYSTEMS
- 02** FUNDER AND
CORPORATE LENS
- 03** NON-PROFIT AND
FIELD PERSPECTIVES

01. GOVERNMENT AND SYSTEMS

The discussion on government and systems focused on the need to treat disability inclusion as a cross-cutting governance priority, requiring stronger coordination across departments and institutions. Education, health, disability, finance, and corporate regulatory systems need to work more closely together, particularly in areas such as early identification, inclusive education, teacher sensitisation, CSR accountability, and disability funding.

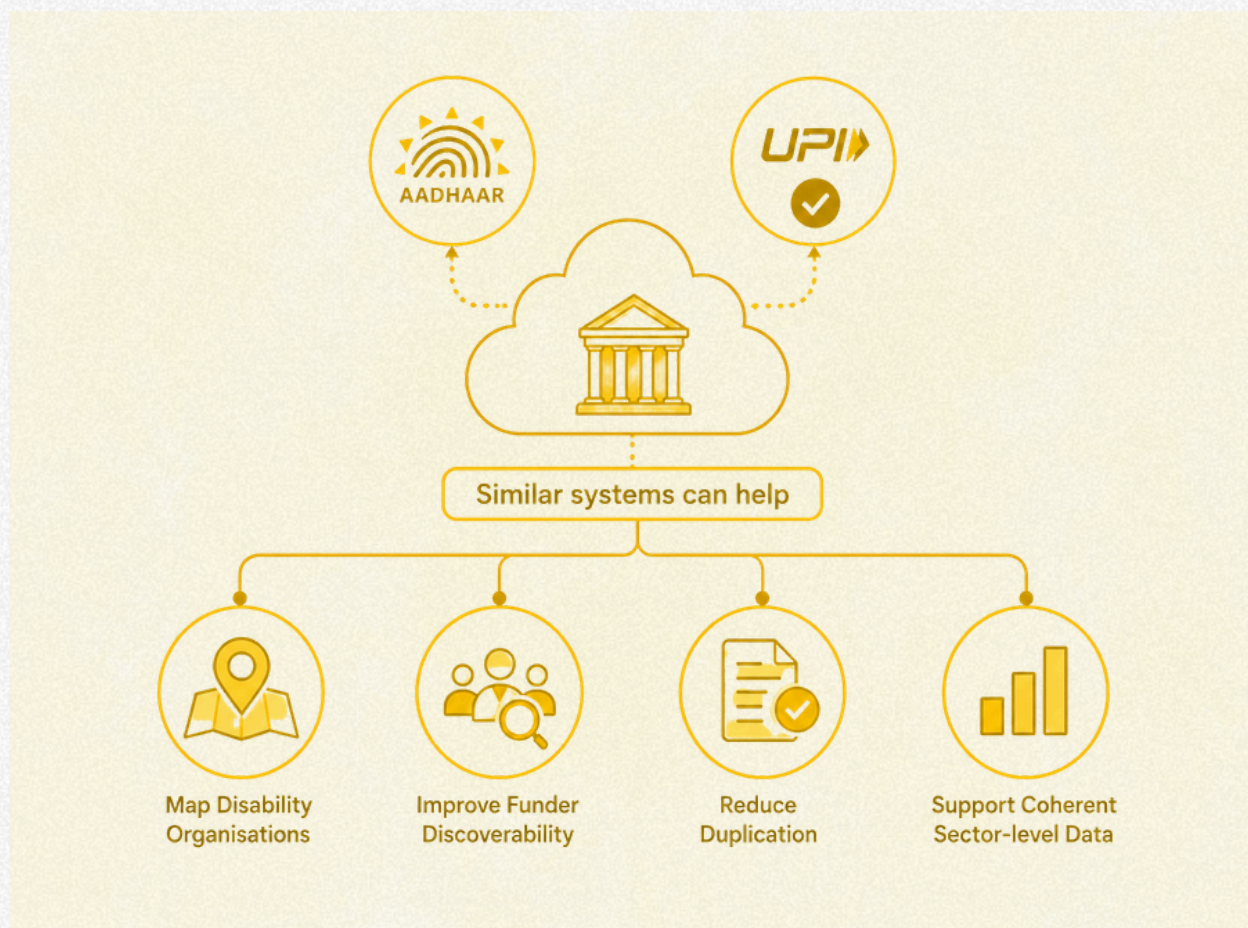


Corporate reporting and accountability frameworks were identified as important entry points. Frameworks such as BRSR and CSR reporting could help assess how companies are allocating resources towards diversity, inclusion, and disability. Disability-specific tagging within CSR and corporate reporting systems could also improve visibility, strengthen tracking of disability-related spending, and build a more reliable evidence base for the sector. The discussion also pointed to the value of stronger digital and institutional infrastructure. Models such as Aadhaar and UPI were referenced as examples of how digital public infrastructure can improve scale, visibility, and coordination. Similar

systems could help map disability organisations, improve funder discoverability, reduce duplication, and support more coherent sector-level data.



Overall, the discussion emphasised that CSR support for disability must move beyond infrastructure alone to include skilling, capacity building, sensitisation, community engagement, and sustained institutional support.



Another key point was that CSR support for disability must move beyond infrastructure alone. While infrastructure remains important, disability inclusion also requires skilling, capacity building, sensitisation, community engagement, and sustained institutional support. **Patience itself was framed as a form of capital, given that building disability inclusion into society, including through Purple Economy or Purple Dot Economy initiatives, requires time, effort, and long-term commitment. Existing initiatives such as the Divyang Sahana Yojana were also referenced, alongside the need to strengthen the sector through better systems, more reliable data, and more coordinated action.**

02. FUNDER AND CORPORATE LENS



The conversation moved beyond a narrow understanding of disability funding as infrastructure creation. **Disability work requires support for pilots, innovation, research, and long-term experimentation.** Bajaj's approach was described as one that favours pilots and innovations, with value placed on testing ideas and supporting new models.

Several practical reflections emerged on how non-profits can engage with funders and CSR donors more effectively. **One suggestion was to build a research element into larger projects, especially where evidence can strengthen the case for support.** However, research needs to be done with the right intent, with diligence, and in a way that is clearly explained to funders.

Credibility emerged as a major theme. Non-profits need to be honest, provide accurate data, and communicate clearly about their work. At the same time, they need to avoid alienating donors while helping them understand the complexity of disability work. This includes educating funders and building their understanding over time.

The importance of creating CSR champions within companies was also highlighted. These internal champions can help sustain attention on disability, advocate for funding, and build deeper institutional commitment. Better communication, stronger evidence, and credible data can help build such champions.

There was also a recognition that non-profits should not depend only on CSR. Organisations were encouraged to explore other sources of funding, including retail donors. This was framed as one part of a broader funding strategy, especially in a context where disability remains underfunded and access to institutional funding is still uneven.

03.

NON-PROFIT AND FIELD PERSPECTIVES

The non-profit voices brought the discussion closer to the realities of implementation. Inclusive education, teacher sensitisation, early identification, and better coordination between education, health, and disability systems emerged as recurring priorities. These were linked to the need for stronger implementation support and more grounded understanding of how disability inclusion works in practice.

A strong need for more granular data was also raised. Funding data needs to be broken down across sectors, sub-sectors, geographies, disability types, and areas of support such as assistive devices, capacity building, teacher training, and institutional strengthening. This would help funders better understand the varied needs of organisations, rather than applying the same expectations across different sizes, geographies, and stages of maturity.



The discussion also reflected on what collaboration should look like in practice. **Community-based models, informal dialogue spaces, and cross-sector partnerships were seen as important ways to build inclusion beyond formal systems.** There was also emphasis on including persons who may fall outside formal disability thresholds, strengthening the visibility of rural and grassroots experiences, and improving the sector's language, storytelling, evidence, and credibility. **Overall, the group highlighted that the sector needs both stronger data and clearer communication to build trust, visibility, and long-term support.**

MEDIA COVERAGE AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT



Non-profits in disability sector receive low CSR funding, State allocation: Report

The Hindu • May 13, 2026



Disability sector gets only 1% CSR funds, says report

Deccan Herald • May 16, 2026



Study Finds Disability Sector Receives Only 1% of CSR Funding in India

The CSR Universe • May 20, 2026



Building a Stronger Disability Ecosystem: Nivedita Krishna on Funding Inclusion and Systemic Change

The CSR Universe • June 24, 2026



Why Disability Remains Overlooked by Funders

IDR • June 25, 2026



EP 2006 | Only 1% CSR Funding for Disability?

Radio Udaan



GALLERY





Pacta is a social sector exclusive law firm and policy think tank bridging gaps in law and policy implementation through rigorous research.



Chitta is Pacta's research initiative focused on driving evidence-based systems transformation and building consciousness through rigorous, data-driven research.

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